

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) ~~The buckle of Claim 1,~~ A rucksack buckle comprising:
a main body, said main body including a first connection means including two bars
integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, and defining two elongate slots therein
adapted for receiving a length of webbing or the like, and further including a grip portion
comprising a substantially planar extension integrally formed with the main body of the buckle;
and
a securing portion, said securing portion including a second connection means including a
first arm integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, wherein said first arm has proximal
and distal ends , said proximal end being attached to the main body of the buckle and said first
arm extending from the main body of the buckle in a first direction and defining a first aperture
therewith, and said first aperture having a first opening at one end, facing in said first direction,
wherein a second arm is integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, wherein said
second arm extends from said first arm in a second direction, substantially opposite to said first
direction, and defines a second aperture therewith, wherein said second aperture has an opening
at one end, facing in said second direction, adapted to receive said captive loop of webbing; and
wherein the second arm is turned through approximately 180° relative to the first arm and faces
in a direction opposite to that of the first arm, and is in spaced apart parallel relationship to the
first arm to define the second aperture; and

wherein said first opening is a first web passageway, said first web passageway extending between said main body of the buckle and said distal end of said first arm and being adapted to guide a captive loop of webbing into said first aperture, and said first web passageway is narrower than said first aperture, and is inclined at an angle to a ~~[[the]]~~ longitudinal axis of the buckle, wherein the longitudinal axis of the buckle is substantially perpendicular to both the first direction and the second direction.

4. **(currently amended)** The buckle of Claim 3, wherein the second arm has a free distal end which defines with the first arm a~~[[n]]~~ second open web passageway leading into the second aperture.

5. **(canceled)**

6. **(canceled)**

7. **(currently amended)** ~~The buckle of Claim 1;~~ A rucksack buckle comprising:

a main body, said main body including a first connection means including two bars integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, and defining two elongate slots therein adapted for receiving a length of webbing or the like, wherein one of said elongate slots is bent at an angle at its center point, so as to form a substantially flattened v-shape and further including a grip portion comprising a substantially planar extension integrally formed with the main body of the buckle; and

a securing portion, said securing portion including a second connection means including a first arm integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, wherein said first arm has proximal and distal ends, said proximal end being attached to the main body of the buckle and said first arm extending from the main body of the buckle in a first direction and defining a first aperture therewith, and said first aperture having a first opening at one end, facing in said first direction,

wherein a second arm is integrally formed with the main body of the buckle, wherein said second arm extends from said first arm in a second direction, substantially opposite to said first

direction, and defines a second aperture therewith, wherein said second aperture has an opening at one end, facing in said second direction, adapted to receive said captive loop of webbing;

wherein said first opening is a first web passageway, said first web passageway extending between said main body of the buckle and said distal end of said first arm and being adapted to guide a captive loop of webbing into said first aperture, and said first web passageway is narrower than said first aperture, and is inclined at an angle to a longitudinal axis of the buckle, wherein the longitudinal axis of the buckle is substantially perpendicular to both the first direction and the second direction.

8. **(currently amended)** The buckle of Claim [[1]] 3, wherein the buckle is bent along a transverse bend line substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the buckle at an acute angle.

9. **(new)** The buckle of Claim 7, wherein the buckle is bent along a transverse bend line substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the buckle at an acute angle.